

LFC Requester: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

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*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** 3/13/25 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB535 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Sen. Muñoz **Agency Name and Code** HCA 630  
**Short Title:** 988 Lifeline Fund **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Writing** Alicia Salazar  
**Phone:** 505-795-3920 **Email** Alicia.salazar2@hca.n

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
NA	NA	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
NA	\$16,096.7	\$16,096.7	Recurring	988 Lifeline Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 535 is an Act increasing the telecommunications relay service surcharge to fund telecommunications access fund and 988 lifeline fund. It further amends fees related to the Workers Compensation Act.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Since 988 implementation in July 2022, the Health Care Authority has supported the lifeline through various temporary funding mechanisms: Federal Covid Relief (expired March 2024), Federal American Rescue Plan Act (expiring September 2025), and one-time annual State General Fund Special Appropriations. Revenue received from this legislation would create sustained funding to support the 988 lifeline and the crisis continuum of care.

#### ***988 Lifeline Fund to receive 80% of total telecommunications relay service surcharge***

<b>Average monthly cell phone bill</b>	<b>TRS Surcharge %</b>	<b>New Average monthly cell phone bill w/ TRS Surcharge</b>	<b>Number of cell phones</b>	<b>Total Monthly Revenue</b>	<b>Total Annual Revenue</b>	<b>80% of Total Annual Revenue to 988 Lifeline Fund</b>
\$141.0	1.66%	\$143.3	716,374	\$1,676,745.0	\$20,120,939.8	<b>\$16,096,751.9</b>

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The New Mexico lifeline has supported 80,259 New Mexicans who contacted 988 since its launch, July 2022. This legislation supports the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) national behavioral health crisis care guidance. Services like the 988 lifeline provide immediate, accessible support for those in crisis in need of mental health or substance use related support, and access to resources. These services (via phone, chat, and text) provide options other than a law enforcement response or using the emergency department and are available 24 hours/7 days a week/365 days a year at no cost to New Mexicans. National Behavioral Health Crisis Care Guidance | SAMHSA.

The 988 Lifeline is not only a federal mandate but a vital mental health resource for all New Mexicans. Funding sources have been sufficient, but temporary, leaving the 988 lifeline without a sustainable financial foundation. Without sustained funding there could be a disruption in services and a negative impact on mental health and substance misuse outcomes for New Mexicans. The lack of a readily accessible, easy-to-remember crisis line like 988 can lead to delayed or inadequate crisis intervention, potentially increasing the risk of suicide or worsening mental health crises, especially for those who may be hesitant to seek help in person. Some individuals may be hesitant to seek help due to stigma surrounding mental health or fear of negative consequences. The lifeline lowers the potential for these barriers. The lifeline gives individuals

access to specialized support and trained crisis counselors and services are available in English and Spanish.

Of the 80,259 calls received by the 988 lifeline, 28,106 (35.0%) were related to suicidal ideation. Other common reasons individuals call the 988 lifeline include substance use, anxiety, situational stress, and depression.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Health Care Authority, Behavioral Health Services Division provides oversight of the 988 lifeline and the crisis continuum of care. This bill will support HCA's performance regarding its oversight of 988.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Revenue generated would support the FY26 and future lifeline contracts and related efforts in the 988 crisis continuum.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

None

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Currently there is not a sustained funding source for the 988 lifeline. Without sustained funding there could be a disruption in services and a negative impact on mental health and substance misuse outcomes for New Mexicans.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None